

A b s t r a c t

The invention relates to a data carrier into which, by a laser beam, identifiers (20, 22) are
5 introduced in the form of patterns, letters, numbers and/or images that are visible due
to local changes in the optical properties of the data carrier, effected by the laser beam
and resulting from material transformations. According to the present invention, the
data carrier comprises a laser-sensitive recording layer (26) that is transparent in the
visible spectral range and that is provided with a surface relief in the form of a lens grid
10 (28). The identifiers are introduced with the laser beam from different directions
through the lens grid (28) into the recording layer (26) and are perceptible when later
viewed from those same directions. The data carrier is transparent at least in the area of
the introduced identifiers (20, 22).

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Fig. 2